Applicants: McMenimen et al.
Application No.: 09/775,262
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A medical device inventory and production control system synchronous with various phases of product manufacturing for standard, customized and newly approved, modified/redesigned devices and to stock various consumption hubs including hospitals, sales offices, distributors and sales representatives on a just in time basis under a build to order and build to replenish production scheme, the system comprising:

a Web-enabled information network being in data communications with a medical device manufacturing control system, shipping/delivery and the variousa consumption hubs; and

at least one programmer being in a bi-directional communications link with the Web-enabled information network; and

at least one medical device implanted in a patient taken out of an inventory of the one of the consumption hubs, the medical device in and having a wireless communication with the programmer to thereby route medical device information to the Web-enabled information network so that the medical device manufacturing control system initiates a build to replenish order for the inventory of the consumption hub based upon the medical device removed from inventory.

Claim 8 (OriginalCurrently Amended): A method for managing medical device inventory and production to coordinate and maintain a just-in-time inventory on a build-to-order production scheme wherein a manufacturing process and sales/distribution hubs are synchronized to track the medical device at all points in the product manufacture, sale, delivery and implantation chain, the method comprising:

providing a Web-enabled information network having bi-directional data communications with the hubs;

maintaining an inventory of the medical devices at the hubs ~~and at a~~ ~~manufacturing facility~~; and

updating ~~a hub's~~the inventory when a medical device is consumed by implementing a build-to-order and build-to-replenish scheme, wherein the inventory is updated via a communication from the consumed device through a medical device programmer that is communicatively coupled with the Web-enabled information network, the communication including device identity and patient information. ~~; and~~

~~maintaining device identity and associated patient information via a programmer interface.~~

Claim 9 (~~Previously Presented~~Currently Amended):   A system for manufacturing build-to-order implantable medical devices, comprising:

an implantable medical device manufacturing assembly facility;

a data center collecting information about inventory status at an implantable medical device implanting institution; and

a manufacturing computer server at an implantable medical device manufacturing site, ~~;~~ the server being in interactive communication with the data center to download inventory status information, wherein the inventory status information is provided by medical devices taken from inventory the communicate with the manufacturing computer server which then initiates the ~~; and~~

~~the server being in communication with the implantable medical device manufacturing assembly facility to initiate~~ manufacture of a build-to-order implantable medical device.